

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KATHARINE CARR
ESTERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Katharine Carr Esters. Mrs. Katharine Carr Esters, a devout Christian and member of the Presbyterian Church since the age of seven years old, gives thanks to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for her accomplishments, especially since returning home to Mississippi back in 1972.

After retiring from the Veterans Administration in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she wanted to start a small business, so in October of 1972 she built a 12 x 15 concrete block grocery store on her parents' land. She mixed the mortar and hauled it in a wheelbarrow herself. Her small enterprise was a success that enabled her to later add two gas pumps at the store. She felt fortunate to get approval for gasoline on the gravel country road where she lived. Along with obtaining a license to sell groceries she was also issued a beer license.

Seeing the need for improving the standard of living in her neighborhood, in 1975 she applied for community water from County Supervisors. They initially denied her, so she got an easement for a waterline right-of-way from neighborhood property owners. With that breakthrough she rented equipment and bought the pipe, then hired workers to lay the waterline. Ford Motor Credit loaned her some of the money. After completion, the County Supervisors reassessed the taxes on all property where her waterline was put down and that was how she got her area of the county road surfaced.

A politician and staunch democrat, in 1976 she became a Governor Cliff Finch Colonel and placed on the Probation and Parole Board for the State of Mississippi, replacing Dr. Leslie McLeMore. Shortly afterwards she was reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Department of Mental Health where she served two consecutive seven-year terms. Working hard on the Board, she is credited with the idea of the State building group homes for mentally challenged citizens so they can have some independence while not being totally on their own, helping to keep their dignity and humanity intact. The first group home was built in Meridian and named the Katharine Carr Ray Esters Group Home and the group home in Kosciusko was also given her name in 2002.

A relative of the rich and famous Miss Oprah Winfrey, in 1988 Mrs. Esters contacted the Northern Highway Transportation Commissioner and persuaded him to name the road that passed the bend from Buffalo Methodist Church near where Oprah was born the Oprah Winfrey Road. Miss Winfrey came home for the celebration and the road was dedicated on the grounds of the Buffalo Community Youth

Center—the old church. The evening of the dedication a benefit was held in Oprah's honor at the Coliseum where money was raised. The proceeds were split. Half the money was given to the Buffalo Community Youth Center and half to the Kosciusko/Attala Cultural Center. After that Mrs. Esters refurbished the Buffalo Community Youth Center.

A history major in college she has a love for the past and people who survived hard times with dignity and respect, especially family members. So over the years she has bought and had installed permanent signs at several historical landmarks. She bought a sign for the site at the old retired Black Presbyterian Church at Ethel where she was baptized, a sign at Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church where she is a member that is on the "Tour Guide" in Kosciusko, and a sign for the Carr Graveyard on #12 Highway near Ethel. She also reactivated the abandoned Civil War Era Cemetery and extended its entire perimeter so that indigent people today can be buried there, and bought and placed 36 granite headstones for those buried there whose graves had not been marked. She also bought and lettered a 14-foot metal gate for the cemetery.

But perhaps her best known accomplishment is her memoir titled *Jay Bird Creek and My Recollections* published in 2003 that told of when Jim Crow was law in Mississippi. Her book has sold many copies and touched the hearts of readers young and old. Also, in 2005 she wrote the history of Plantation Missionary Baptist Church for the benefit of future members.

She is a Life Member of the NAACP, a Life Member of the Attala County Cultural Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Oprah Winfrey Boys & Girls Club, a member of the Democratic Executive Committee, and an Elder at Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church.

In closing the interview she said, "I have given too many scholarships to number, taken high blood pressure medicine everyday for 60 years and taught Christian Education even longer. From my dialysis chair I am still privileged to enjoy my family and friends and, most of all, I remain a grateful servant person."

EXTENDING COUNTERTERRORISM AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the new majority in the House has told us that the decisions they make will be guided by two things. First, loyalty to the Constitution. And second, a belief that the government is too large and too intrusive.

Well, here is their chance to act on those principles. The PATRIOT Act provisions we're

voting on today represent Big Brother at its creepiest and most invasive. They are a clear violation of the 4th Amendment's "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures."

It's been close to a decade now that we've lived under the PATRIOT Act. For close to a decade, we've been told that our individual freedoms needed to take a backseat. For close to a decade, we've been told that our civil liberties must be shredded in the name of a so-called war on terrorism. We've been told that the national security imperatives of the moment are so great—and so different than any we've faced in our history—that we must submit to roving wiretaps, that we must empower the government to obtain "any tangible thing" related to a terrorism investigation.

"Any tangible thing"—that gives the government pretty broad discretion to ferret out just about whatever it is that they want. It is an invitation to overreach and abuse.

Meanwhile, it's not at all clear that the PATRIOT Act has made us safer. I believe it has stifled freedom more than it has advanced it. There is a real incoherence to an approach that says we have to do violence to our values in order to protect them. Benjamin Franklin's words are just as powerful today as they were more than 200 years ago: "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

I was impressed that so many members of the majority, in particular those just elected, voted against this measure when it came up on the suspension calendar earlier this week. I strongly urge them to do so again, and I hope they will be joined by more of their Republican colleagues who claim such a passionate belief in modest government. Or do they want to be known as the party that believes we should be tapping Americans' phones but not giving them affordable health care?

I believe we must let these provisions expire. And let's not stop there. Let's move toward a fuller debate about civil liberties and national security, one that revises and ultimately repeals the PATRIOT Act once and for all. This law is Constitutional graffiti. Patriotism means affirming and celebrating the values that have given America its strength and vitality for more than two centuries. A bill that violates several constitutional amendments has no business calling itself the PATRIOT Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 72, DIRECTING COMMITTEES TO RE- VIEW REGULATIONS FROM FED- ERAL AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today and tomorrow we are spending more

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